

Appl. No. 09/706,926
Amdt. dated April 21, 2010
Reply to office action of December 28, 2009

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action of December 28, 2009. Claims 1, 4, 7 were rejected as being obvious in view of the combination of US Pat. No. 6,108,609 (Qian), US Pat. No. 5,541,592 (Shiihara), US Pat. No. 5,966,672 (Knupp), US Pat. No. 5,663,929 (Pavone) and US Pat. No. 6,882,997 (Zhang); Claims 8-10 were rejected as being obvious in view of the combination of Qian, Shiihara, Knupp, and Pavone; Claims 6 was rejected as being obvious in view of the combination of Qian, Shiihara, Knupp, Pavone and US Pat. No. 6,243,483 (Petrou); and Claims 3 was rejected as being obvious in view of the combination of Qian, Shiihara, Knupp, Pavone and US Pat. No. 5,978,788 (Castelli). Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider the present application in view of the following remarks.

Interview Request

Applicant had requested an applicant initiated telephone interview scheduled for April 15, 2010 and provided a proposed amendment with remarks. Unfortunately, the interview was not conducted due to scheduling conflicts with the Examiner's schedule. Applicant has elected not to reschedule the interview; rather, the Applicant is submitting the current response to the Office Action. If the Examiner believes that it would be helpful to discuss the present amendment and arguments with the Applicant's representative, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

Independent Claim 1

In the Office Action mailed on December 28, 2009, Figure 5 of Zhang was cited as teaching the claim element of "wherein the wavelet-based representation has a smaller data size than the data point representation of the geographic feature." Applicant respectfully points out that Zhang does not teach or suggest this claim element.

Zhang uses a wavelet transform to mine spatial data, such as satellite images, to find clusters, such as grouping stars in galaxies for astronomy. (see Zhang: column 1, lines 28-42). Zhang identifies clusters by applying a wavelet transform to spatial data that converts the spatial data into a frequency domain. The frequency domain is analyzed to identify dense regions that are clusters. (see Zhang: column 8, line 65 – column 9, line 5). The benefit of the wavelet

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transform is to view frequency domain in multiple resolutions to detect clusters at different levels of detail. (see Zhang: column 9, line 56-61). Although Zhang discloses different resolution or different scales, Zhang has no disclosure relating to "the wavelet-based representation has a smaller data size than the data point representation of the geographic feature." Figure 5 of Zhang shows the multi-resolution wavelet representation of the feature space in Figure 1 at different scales 1, 2, and 3 with different information extracted through the application of low pass and high pass filters.

In Figure 5, the upper left quadrant shows a LL wavelet representation after low pass filtering in both the horizontal and vertical directs to provide an approximate original image. The upper right quadrant shows a LH wavelet representation after a low pass filter in the horizontal direction and a high pass filter in the vertical direction which emphasizes horizontal image features. The lower left quadrant shows a HL wavelet representation after a high pass filter in the horizontal direction and a low pass filter in the vertical direction which emphasizes vertical features. The lower right quadrant shows a HH wavelet representation after a high pass filter in the horizontal direction and a high pass filter in the vertical direction which emphasizes diagonal features. (see Zhang: Figure 5, column 10, line 30-48). The images in Figure 5 do not show the claim element that the wavelet-based representation has a smaller data size than the data point representation. The wavelet representation in Figure 5(a) upper left quadrant is identical to the feature space representation shown in Figure 1 suggesting that the data size is identical. Although the other quadrants show less than the upper left quadrant, these quadrants are not the wavelet representation, but filtered representations formed by removing data from the wavelet representation.

Accordingly, Applicant believes that Claim 1 is not obvious in view of the above recited combination because the claim element "the wavelet-based representation has a smaller data size than the data point representation of the geographic feature" is not disclosed or suggested in Zhang. Thus, Applicant submits that the rejection of Claim 1 should be withdrawn.

Independent Claims 8

Applicant has amended Claim 8 to include the claim element "wherein the wavelet-based representation has a smaller data size than the data point representation of the geographic

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feature." Accordingly, Applicant believes that Claim 8 is not obvious in view of the above combination for some of the same reasons stated above in conjunction with Claim 1.

Dependent Claims 3-4, 6-7 and 9-10

Applicant's dependent Claims 3-4, 6-7 and 9-10 are allowable at least for the reason that they depend upon allowable base claims. In addition, these claims include features that are not disclosed by the cited references.


Petition for extension of time

Included with this response is a request for an extension of time to reply to the Office Action dated December 28, 2009. Included with this response is an authorization for payment of the fee associated with this request.

Conclusion

With the present response, all the issues in the Office Action mailed December 28, 2009 have been addressed. Applicant submits that the present application has been placed in condition for allowance. If any issues remain, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,



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